



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (New) A manually adjustable forceps tool for controlling an implantable electrode assembly of a stimulating medical device comprising:

 a first flexible arm comprising contiguous first and second elongate regions each having proximal and distal ends, said second region having a concave shaped region near said distal end of said second region, said concave region configured to receive and support said electrode assembly; and

 a second flexible arm comprising first and second contiguous elongate regions each having proximal and distal ends, said second region of said second arm having a tip region; and

 wherein said proximal end of said first region of said first arm is pivotally fixed to the proximal end of said first region of said second arm, and wherein application of a force to said first or second arms causes said tip region to be in proximity to said concave region to retain said electrode assembly in a space defined by said concave region and said tip region.

21. (New) The forceps of claim 20, wherein said concave region comprises:

 a region having a substantially C-shaped cross-section.

22. (New) The forceps of claim 21, wherein said C-shaped region comprises:

 a region having a substantially half-tube shaped cross-section.

23. (New) The forceps of claim 20, wherein when said electrode assembly is retained in said space defined by said concave region and said tip region, said concave region limits lateral movement of said electrode assembly.
24. (New) The forceps of claim 20, wherein when said electrode assembly is retained in said space defined by said concave region and said tip region, said concave region permits longitudinal movement of said electrode assembly relative to said concave region.
25. (New) The forceps of claim 20, wherein said second regions of said first and second arms are each positioned at an angle of approximately 0° to 25° degrees from said first regions of said respective first and second arms.
26. (New) The forceps of claim 25, wherein said second regions are each positioned at an angle of approximately 18 degrees from said first regions of said respective first and second arms.
27. (New) The forceps of claim 20, wherein a line through the center of the space defined by said concave region is substantially aligned with the longitudinal axis of said second region of said first arm.
28. (New) The forceps of claim 20, wherein said concave region further comprises:
an aperture positioned at the trough of said concave region.
29. (New) The forceps of claim 20, wherein said tip region comprises:
a region having an approximately half-circular shaped cross-section, wherein the flat surface of said half-circular shape is proximate to said concave region when said tip region is in proximity to said concave region.

30. (New) The forceps of claim 29, wherein the flat surface of said tip region has a width that is greater than the width of the space defined by said concave region.
31. (New) The forceps of claim 29, wherein the flat surface of said tip region has a width that is less than the width of the space defined by said concave region.
32. (New) The forceps of claim 20, wherein said tip region extends the length of said second region of said second arm, and comprises:
 - an approximately constant cross-section.
33. (New) The forceps of claim 32, wherein said tip region comprises:
 - a substantially rectangular cross-section.
34. (New) The forceps of claim 32, wherein said tip region comprises:
 - a region having an approximately half-circular shaped cross-section, wherein the flat surface of said half-circular shape is proximate to said concave region when said tip region is in proximity to said concave region.
35. (New) The forceps of claim 20, wherein said distal ends of said second regions move towards each other when said arms are compressed, and wherein said distal ends of said second regions move away from each other when the compression is released.
36. (New) The forceps of claim 20, wherein one of said arms includes a post positioned on said arm, said post being proximate to the other of said arms when said tip region is in proximity to said concave region, wherein said post is configured to prevent said tip region from contacting said concave region.
37. (New) The forceps of claim 20, wherein said electrode array comprises an electrode array selected from the group of: a cochlea stimulation electrode array, a spinal stimulation electrode array or an auditory midbrain stimulation array.

38. (New) A manually adjustable forceps tool for controlling an implantable electrode assembly of a stimulating medical device comprising:

a first flexible arm comprising contiguous first and second elongate regions each having proximal and distal ends, said second region having a substantially forked shaped region near said distal end of said second region, said forked region configured to receive and support said electrode assembly; and

a second flexible arm comprising first and second contiguous elongate regions each having proximal and distal ends, said second region of said second arm having a tip region; and

wherein said proximal end of said first region of said first arm is pivotally fixed to the proximal end of said first region of said second arm, and wherein application of a force to said first or second arms causes said tip region to be in proximity to said forked region to retain said electrode assembly in a space defined by said forked region and said tip region.

39. (New) The forceps of claim 38, wherein when said electrode assembly is retained in said space defined by said forked region and said tip region, said forked region limits lateral movement of said electrode assembly.

40. (New) The forceps of claim 38, wherein when said electrode assembly is retained in said space defined by said forked region and said tip region, said forked region permits longitudinal movement of said electrode assembly relative to said forked region.

41. (New) The forceps of claim 38, wherein said forked region comprises a pair of elongate elements each having a proximal and distal end, and wherein said proximate ends of said elongate elements are joined to each other.

42. (New) The forceps of claim 41, wherein said elongate elements each have a radius of curvature at said distal ends of said elongate elements.

43. (New) The forceps of claim 42, wherein when said forked region is in proximity to said tip region, said radius of curvature is curved away from said tip region.

44. (New) The forceps of claim 38, wherein said second regions of said first and second arms are each positioned at an angle of approximately 0° to 25° degrees from said first regions of said respective first and second arms.

45. (New) The forceps of claim 44, wherein said second regions are each positioned at an angle of approximately 18 degrees from said first regions of said respective first and second arms.

46. (New) The forceps of claim 38, wherein said forked region is substantially aligned with the longitudinal axis of said second region of said first arm.

47. (New) The forceps of claim 38, wherein said tip region comprises:

a region having an approximately half-circular shaped cross-section, wherein the flat surface of said half-circular shape is proximate to said forked region when said tip region is in proximity to said forked region.

48. (New) The forceps of claim 47, wherein the flat surface of said tip region has a width that is greater than the width of said forked region.

49. (New) The forceps of claim 47, wherein the flat surface of said tip region has a width that is less than the width of the said forked region.

50. (New) The forceps of claim 38, wherein said tip region extends the length of said second region of said second arm, and comprises:

an approximately constant cross-section.

51. (New) The forceps of claim 50, wherein said tip region comprises:
a substantially rectangular cross-section.
52. (New) The forceps of claim 50, wherein said tip region comprises:
a region having an approximately half-circular shaped cross-section, wherein the flat surface of said half-circular shape is proximate to said forked region when said tip region is in proximity to said forked region.
53. (New) The forceps of claim 38, wherein said distal ends of said second regions move towards each other when said arms are compressed, and wherein said distal ends of said second regions move away from each other when the compression is released.
54. (New) The forceps of claim 38, wherein one of said arms includes a post positioned on said arm, said post being proximate to the other of said arms when said tip region is in proximity to said concave region, wherein said post is configured to prevent said tip region from contacting said concave region.
55. (New) The forceps of claim 38, wherein said electrode array comprises an electrode array selected from the group of: a cochlea stimulation electrode array, a spinal stimulation electrode array or an auditory midbrain stimulation array.

56. (New) A manually adjustable forceps tool for controlling an implantable electrode assembly of a stimulating medical device comprising:

a first flexible arm comprising contiguous first and second elongate regions each having proximal and distal ends, said second region having a looped shaped region near said distal end of said second region, said looped region configured to receive and support said electrode assembly; and

a second flexible arm comprising first and second contiguous elongate regions each having proximal and distal ends, said second region of said second arm having a tip region; and

wherein said proximal end of said first region of said first arm is pivotally fixed to the proximal end of said first region of said second arm, and wherein application of a force to said first or second arms causes said tip region to be in proximity to said looped region to retain said electrode assembly in a space defined by said looped region.

57. (New) The forceps of claim 56, wherein when said electrode assembly is retained in said space defined by said looped region, said looped region limits lateral movement of said electrode assembly.

58. (New) The forceps of claim 56, wherein when said electrode assembly is retained in said space defined by said looped region, said looped region permits longitudinal movement of said electrode assembly relative to said looped region.

59. (New) The forceps of claim 56, wherein said looped region comprises an elongate looped shaped element having a proximal and distal end, and wherein said distal end of said elongate element has a radius of curvature.

60. (New) The forceps of claim 56, wherein the longitudinal axis of said proximal region of said looped element is substantially aligned with the longitudinal axis of said second region of said first arm.

61. (New) The forceps of claim 59, wherein when said looped region is in proximity to said tip region, said elongate element curves away from said tip region.

62. (New) The forceps of claim 56, wherein said second regions of said first and second arms are each positioned at an angle of approximately 0° to 25° degrees from said first regions of said respective first and second arms.

63. (New) The forceps of claim 62, wherein said second regions are each positioned at an angle of approximately 18 degrees from said first regions of said respective first and second arms.

64. (New) The forceps of claim 56, wherein said tip region comprises:

a region having an approximately half-circular shaped cross-section, wherein the flat surface of said half-circular shape is proximate to said looped region when said tip region is in proximity to said looped region.

65. (New) The forceps of claim 64, wherein the flat surface of said tip region has a width that is greater than the width of the space defined by said looped region.

66. (New) The forceps of claim 64, wherein the flat surface of said tip region has a width that is less than the width of the space defined by said looped region.

67. (New) The forceps of claim 56, wherein said tip region extends the length of said second region of said second arm, and comprises:

an approximately constant cross-section.

68. (New) The forceps of claim 67, wherein said tip region comprises:

a substantially rectangular cross-section.

69. (New) The forceps of claim 67, wherein said tip region comprises:

a region having an approximately half-circular shaped cross-section, wherein the flat surface of said half-circular shape is proximate to said looped region when said tip region is in proximity to said looped region.

70. (New) The forceps of claim 56, wherein said distal ends of said second regions move towards each other when said arms are compressed, and wherein said distal ends of said second regions move away from each other when the compression is released.

71. (New) The forceps of claim 56, wherein one of said arms includes a post positioned on said arm, said post being proximate to the other of said arms when said tip region is in proximity to said looped region, wherein said post is configured to prevent said tip region from contacting said looped region.

72. (New) The forceps of claim 56, wherein said electrode array comprises an electrode array selected from the group of: a cochlea stimulation electrode array, a spinal stimulation electrode array or an auditory midbrain stimulation array.